

PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: : Confirmation No.: 3106
Hiroyuki IKEUCHI et al. : Art Unit: 1731
Serial No.: 10/593,706 : Examiner: P. Darji
Filed: September 21, 2006 :
For: AN AQUEOUS-LIQUID-ABSORBING :
AGENT AND ITS PRODUCTION PROCESS :

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the October 13, 2010 Office Action. In the Action, claims 1-8 and 10-13 are rejected. In view of the following comments, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-5

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,414,214 to Engelhardt et al. Engelhardt et al. is cited for disclosing a hydrogel-forming polymer obtained from an acrylic acid monomer. The rejection is based on the position that the resulting polymer of Engelhardt et al. is the same or substantially the same as the claimed invention.

The rejection appears to be based on the Examiner's position that all water-absorbent resin particles obtained from acrylic acid are identical or substantially identical, and therefore, have the